

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2002 - 0140

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO
NEGOTIATE, EXECUTE, AND AMEND A CONTRACT WITH THE
LAKE ELSINORE AND SAN JACINTO WATERSHED AUTHORITY (LESJWA)
TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE ISLAND WELL IMPROVEMENTS
AND MONITORING PROGRAM FROM THE LAKE ELSINORE AND
SAN JACINTO WATERSHED PROGRAM (LESJWP) ESTABLISHED IN
THE COSTA-MACHADO WATER ACT OF 2000 (2000 BOND ACT)

WHEREAS:

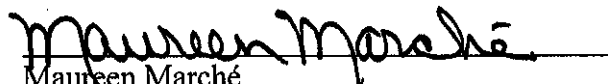
1. The 2000 Bond Act authorized \$15 million from LESJWP for projects to rehabilitate and improve Lake Elsinore and the San Jacinto Watershed.
2. LESJWA has requested LESJWP funding for the \$1,608,365 Island Well Improvements and Monitoring Program.
3. This project is described in the Attachment and is consistent with the LESJWP goals of protecting wildlife habitat, protecting and enhancing recreational resources, and improving lake water quality.
4. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has made independent California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings and concurs with the Mitigated Negative Declaration filed for the Island Well Improvements and Monitoring Program by the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District with the Riverside County Clerk on March 29, 2002.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

SWRCB authorizes the Executive Director or designee to negotiate, execute, and amend a contract with LESJWA for the \$1,608,365 Island Well Improvements and Monitoring Program from LESJWP.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 18, 2002.


Maureen Marché
Clerk to the Board

Island Well Improvements and Monitoring Program

Project Description

The Island Well Improvements will supply replenishment water for Lake Elsinore. Lake Elsinore is the largest natural freshwater lake in Southern California. Currently, the lake covers 2,896 surface acres, at surface elevation 1,237 with an average depth of 10-feet and a maximum depth of 14-feet and loses up to 14,000 acre feet per year due to evaporation. The lake's volume is about 30,000 acre-feet and is legally mandated to maintain a minimum lake elevation of 1240 feet above mean sea level.

Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watershed Authority proposes to retrofit three wells located on the Operations Island connected to the levee of Lake Elsinore. The proposed improvements include the construction of pumping equipment, valves, pipeline, controls, motors, motor control center, and electrical conduit necessary to operate the three existing wells. These wells were designed to provide replenishment water to the lake to make up for water loss due to evaporation.

Though not in operation for several years, well testing on the three wells has been conducted. Based on this testing, the wells are estimated to produce approximately 5,500 acre feet per year (AFY). With an assumption of 10 percent downtime for maintenance, a year round production of 5,000 AFY is assumed to be available. Through the installation of these well improvements and future reclaimed water deliveries, the lake water loss due to evaporation can be stabilized.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review and Findings

A Notice of Intent to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration was filed by the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District with the County of Riverside (State Clearing House No. 2002059010) on March 29, 2002. The Mitigation Measures were made a condition of lead agency approval and for a limited term of two years, recycled water additions to the lake are not to exceed 4,480 AFY. Additionally, the discharge into the lake of an additional 5,000 AFY of groundwater pursuant to a schedule approved by the Executive Officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) will be used to dilute the recycled water. Also, a monitoring program designed to monitor nutrients and pathogens will be implemented during the course of the pilot project. The project is being implemented on a temporary basis in order to assess the effects of recycled water input on nutrient levels in the lake.

Given the short term nature of the project and the fact a monitoring program for nutrients and pathogens will be in place during the term of the project, staff concurs with these mitigation measures. If nutrient levels remain within acceptable levels as defined by the SARWQCB, the project may be continued indefinitely with alternative funding sources.

Funding Requirements

Funding requested is \$1,608,365 for the Island Well Improvements and Monitoring Program.